13. Cattle in Cochin.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Mr. President, Sir, this resolution is a very important one in the interest of the ryot population. It is needless for me to lay stress in the paramount importance of good live stock to the agriculturists. The maintenance of good stud bulls is a *sine qua non* to agricultural prosperity and yet what is the condition of the cattle to-day in Cochin State? Half famished and emaciated animals with not even strength to drag the small primitive plough and even these miserable specimen of cattle are not always available owing to the heavy mortality in certain villages due to infectious cattle diseases. Is the Government in possession of statistics as regards this heavy mortality? As recently as even this year I have heard of individual landlords who had lost their cattle by dozens in the course of a few months and who, therefore, did not get a good portion of their lands tilled. Sometimes the ryots are driven to the need of substituting the spade in place of the plough for want of cattle. But this is a slow and costly process; and it is very difficult to get a sufficient number of agricultural labourers at the time of ploughing when everyone is busy in the fields. I understand that the Agricultural Department finds it difficult to cope with this cattle disease, and unless preventive measures are taken by popularising inoculation, I am afraid the agriculturists would be put to heavier losses in future.

Another important factor in the improvement of the condition of cattle is stock breeding. The poor ryot who cultivates two or three acres of land cannot be expected to maintain stud bulls. The duty of maintaining stud bulls should evolve on Government and rich land-owners. To quote from the Memorandum submitted by the Agricultural Superintendent to the Members of the Council in 1925:—

"*In Cochin the worst animal which is unfit for any other purpose is delegated to perform the important function of improving the cattle of the country. It is true that in a very small scale breeding on pure lines and cross-breeding are being undertaken in the Ollukara Farm; and stud bulls in that place are utilised for serving the cows of outside owners*". According to the Superintendent of Agriculture the young stock of cows served by good bulls are securing 100 to 150 per cent increase in their prices. Then why does not Government station in every Taluk a sufficient number of stud bulls for breeding purposes? This is certainly one of the means for improving the condition of cattle in our State.

Before I conclude, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government their neglect of the grazing grounds. In every

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village there are a number of cattle, good and bad, which have to be fed. Unfortunately, most of the grounds that are allotted for grazing purposes are utterly devoid of the very essentials, *viz.*, grass and water. Most of these grazing grounds are mere arid tracts, with rank growth such as prickly pear, etc.

In these circumstances, the matter of improving the condition of the cattle is one that should be taken up at once, and I hope the Government will lose no time in appointing a Committee to go into the question and submit a report as early as possible.

Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon.—Unless we have good quality of stud bulls we will not be able to improve the health of our live-stock. As observed by the mover, the stock is of a very poor quality, and it is high time for us to take some means to improve it. I second the resolution.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—We have got another resolution for establishing experimental demonstrative farms in all taluks and this is a very good idea to supply each and every taluk with a stud bull also. This is a self-evident proposition which needs no speech. So I give it my hearty support.

President.—What is the other resolution?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—To establish experimental farms in all taluks and to supply them with stud bulls.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I move the amendment to omit the words beginning with "that a committee, etc.,' and ending with 'submit' and insert 'to prepare'.

President.—So you don't require a committee.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I entirely agree with the mover as regards the necessity and usefulness of such a report but there is no meaning in appointing a committee for each and everything. There are Heads of Departments who have got qualified officers under them who will be able to do this. No committee is necessary.

President.—That will be rather additional work upon the Heads of Departments. When will this report be got ready?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—We can undertake it.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I second the amendment. My point is that this is a special subject which requires some special knowledge. Laymen cannot do this work, no matter however hard-working they may be. The Agricultural Superintendent should be instructed by the Government to take up the matter forthwith, and if the Government do desire, they may ask somebody to work. There is no necessity to have a committee of non-official Members. There are Veterinary doctors and specialists and they will be able to throw more light upon the subject than

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any learned Member of this House who will perhaps be more learned in law than about the cow-keeping business.

Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—I support the amendment. Lack of knowledge of the methods to be employed is the reason put forward for constituting a committee composed of non-official Members of this House. Several suggestions have been made both at the time of the budget discussion and afterwards as to the methods to be employed and the improvements that have to be done in this matter. Special suggestions have been made that every Panchayat should be supplied with a stud bull. All these practical suggestions should be enforced as early as possible and the Government must take particular care to suggest proper means to devise a practical plan to be adopted hereafter. All these things should be enforced as early as possible. I do not think any good would be forthcoming by appointing a committee. So my submission is that a committee is not required.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Sir, I am in entire agreement with the views of the Hon'ble Member for Planters although I must say that in a matter like this we could not easily solve it. I have said in this House that live-stock improvement is a subject in which the Government alone cannot take any intensive method. It is a matter in which we want a lot of co-operation from leading land-holders and similar directions. Probably you might have seen in the budgets Government are offering recurring grants for maintaining stud-bulls. No doubt there are not very many stud bulls. The subject is very important but at the same time it is a very expensive one. The result is very slow. And I have also to point out, as suggested by the Hon'ble Member for North Ezhuva Constituency, it is not an easy matter to establish stud bulls in all the Panchayats in the State. In the first place a good stud bull might cost about Rs. 150—200 and the annual recurring charge for maintaining an animal will be about Rs. 15 per mensem to it on an average. So the whole thing is a very expensive matter. Government are in entire sympathy with the resolution.

President.—What about the question of the committee? Government expenses is a quite different thing. The resolution moved by Mr. Barton Wright recommends a committee. Is it necessary or not? Why should we traverse the question of stud bulls? Have you got anything to say with the amendment? Observations will be welcome. Both the resolution and the amendment are before the House. Whether it will be useful to have a committee or whether the work can be carried without a committee?

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Dr. A. G. Menon.—If the Government accept, there is no use of continuing the discussion. Whether the Government accepts the principles we should like to know.

President.—Government accepts the resolution as brought forward by the mover.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Then there is an end of the matter.

President.—But there is the amendment. What is the Government view on the matter? They will vote with the mover of the resolution.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—This is a very important subject and there is no doubt that it affects the well being of the country and especially the ryot population. But I am afraid for all these material improvements people look forward to Government to do everything. Probably this is a matter in which the ryots themselves must engage themselves. Judging from the sanitary standpoint unless the people really co-operate with the Government these principles cannot be applied and practised. They must apply the sanitary principles in their homes and every day lives. I had the bitter experience at the time when Cochin and Ernakulam were infected with Cholera germs.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—This is not a subject for medical raptures.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I myself have lost half a dozen cows—very valuable ones. There is really such a strong rude idea prevailing against protective inoculation. I had a talk with the officer in charge of the Veterinary hospital here and I asked him why we had not sufficient facilities for bringing epidemics under control. He told me that he carried with him from house to house vaccines to inoculate the cattle but the people refused to have their cattle inoculated. So what is the use of multiplying Veterinary hospitals? We now want real propaganda work in the country and unless there is real co-operation and a desire on the part of the people to take advantage of facilities offered all criticism of inaction of Government are useless.

President.—This report will not serve any useful purpose. The point is whether a committee to enquire and report will be of use.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I hardly think there will be any use. I have really little information about live-stock but I have referred the matter in conversation with many students who studied agricultural science in Europe. They say it is primarily the farmers who adopt hygienic measures in housing and looking after their cattle.

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Dr. A. G. Menon.—India is not England. Here the Government has got to do for us.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Scientific knowledge in Government reports will not be of much help. What is really wanted is real propaganda work. Here the climate on the west coast is rather inimical to the growth of high class live-stock. This is the opinion of people who have got any knowledge of Veterinary Science.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—I do not think.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—We do not agree with the Hon'ble Member.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—After you became the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer, have you issued any leaflet regarding the live-stock and sanitary principles in Veterinary?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I was never in charge of the Veterinary Department. At one time the Chief Medical Officer was in charge of the Veterinary Department. Since I took charge it is not under me.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Were any leaflets on the subject issued before you took charge?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Not to my knowledge, I believe.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—I take objection to such expressions, Sir.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I beg pardon, Sir, and I withdraw that.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—A Member should never make use of such expressions.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I should like to know whether the Cochin Government has issued any leaflet on the subject.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Leaflets are being issued in the Cochin Government Gazette.

President.—Mr. Salem, don't give room for such objectionable language.

Mr A. B. Salem.—I am not using that.

President.—The amended resolution would read thus:—

'That this Council recommends to the Government to prepare a comprehensive report regarding the conaition of the cattle in the Cochin State and how the live-stock may be improved".

Question put and negatived.

President.—The original resolution No. 13 of Mr. C. Barton Wright reads: "*That this Council recommends to the Government that a committee of officials aud non-officials be appointed to submit a comprehensive report regarding the condition of the cattle in the Cochin State, and how the live-stock may be improved*".

Resolution put and agreed to.

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